



# HENRICO COUNTY VIRGINIA

**MARCH 2017**

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March 30, 2017

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*Henrico high school students get close look at county, school operations*

More than 100 students from Henrico County high schools got a firsthand look at their local government and public schools administrations Thursday as part of the 60th annual Student Government Day.

The program matched 113 students from all nine high schools and The Academy at Virginia Randolph with elected and appointed officials, including members of the Board of Supervisors and School Board, county manager, superintendent, judges and department directors. Students spent the day learning how Henrico general government and Henrico County Public Schools work on behalf of residents and others to provide services and address needs of the community.

“For six decades, Student Government Day has given students from Henrico’s high schools access and insight into the inner workings of their local government and school system,” County Manager John A. Vithoukaskas said. “This program reinforces Henrico’s commitment to being open and accessible to our residents, and it serves as a reminder that our community is strongest when we all work together.”

Student Government Day began Wednesday at Hermitage High School with a ceremony in which 32 students swore the oaths required for their assigned positions. All students spent Thursday with their designated departments and agencies. Some also toured Henrico’s Jail West and registered to vote.

For students who worked at the Henrico Government Center, the day ended with a student-run, simulated work session and meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The students learned about the Division of Fire’s robotics response program and the county’s internship program, and voted to authorize the sale of \$114.6 million in general obligation bonds to implement projects approved in the 2016 bond referendum.

The Kiwanis clubs of North Richmond, Tuckahoe and Greater Richmond sponsor Student Government Day.



*Students from Henrico high schools work alongside county officials during a mock meeting of the Board of Supervisors as part of Henrico’s 60th annual Student Government Day.*

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March 21, 2017

CONTACT: Patricia Conway, Community Relations Coordinator, Henrico County Public Library  
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### **Henrico residents invited to share design ideas for new Fairfield Area Library**

Henrico County Public Library is planning community meetings March 28-29 and April 1 to receive input from county residents on the design of a new Fairfield Area Library. Meetings will be held at the Fairfield Area Library, 1001 N. Laburnum Ave., and at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave.

Architects from BCWH, Inc. will join library staff for the meetings, which will feature discussions and seek ideas on spaces and services for specific age groups as well as designs for the entire facility. Sessions are scheduled for the following times and locations.

- Tuesday, March 28, Fairfield Area Library: 2 p.m., focus on older patrons; 5 p.m., focus on teenagers; 7 p.m., general meeting.
- Wednesday, March 29, Fairfield Area Library: 11 a.m., focus on parents and caregivers of young children.
- Wednesday, March 29, Eastern Henrico Recreation Center: 7 p.m., general meeting.
- Saturday, April 1, Fairfield Area Library: 10 a.m., general meeting.

Residents also can submit design ideas and photos by email to [libraryconcepts@henricolibrary.org](mailto:libraryconcepts@henricolibrary.org). In addition, they can provide input through a survey at [henricolibrary.org](http://henricolibrary.org).

Henrico voters approved \$24 million in funding for a new Fairfield Area Library in November's bond referendum. Design work is expected to be completed in March 2018, with construction getting underway later that year. Construction is expected wrap up in 2019.

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March 15, 2017

CONTACT: Anthony J. Romanello, Deputy County Manager for Administration  
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### *Registration for 2017 Henrico Citizens Academy opens March 20*

Henrico residents can experience county operations and services firsthand at the 2017 Henrico Citizens Academy, scheduled for six sessions in April and May. Registration opens Monday, March 20 at [connect.henricorecandparks.com](http://connect.henricorecandparks.com).

The free, 15-hour program will take place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. each Thursday from April 20 to May 25. The academy is open to 35 residents age 18 or older.

In addition to registering online, residents can sign up at the Division of Recreation and Parks office in the Human Services Building, 8600 Dixon Powers Drive.

The weekly sessions, which are led by county officials and staff, are designed to give participants a comprehensive look at Henrico operations and the range of programs and services the county offers. Classes are held at a different county facility each week and typically feature a presentation and discussion, facility tours, equipment demonstrations and other activities. Topics cover community and economic development; human services; public safety; libraries; finance; recreation and parks; and schools.

Academy graduates will have opportunities to participate in future county activities and will be encouraged to stay engaged with their community.

For more information, call (804) 501-4370 or email [zin01@henrico.us](mailto:zin01@henrico.us).

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March 6, 2017

CONTACT: Charlotte Whitten, Executive Assistant, Henrico County Board of Supervisors  
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*Fairfield meeting March 13 to discuss opioid crisis, General Assembly session*

Fairfield District Supervisor Frank J. Thornton will hold a constituent meeting Monday, March 13 to discuss the opioid crisis and the 2017 General Assembly session.

Thornton will be joined by representatives of the Henrico County Branch of the NAACP, Henrico Health Director Susan Fischer Davis and others to examine the growing concerns associated with opioid abuse and addiction. Thornton also has invited members of the General Assembly to provide an overview of the recently concluded legislative session.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center, 1440 N. Laburnum Ave. For information, call (804) 501-4208.

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March 1, 2017

CONTACT: Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services, Henrico County  
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*Henrico communications survey gets underway; Harrisonburg firm will call 500 residents in each district through early April*

Henrico County has started a telephone survey of residents to better understand how they get news and information about the county and its programs and services.

The research firm Responsive Management of Harrisonburg will survey 500 residents in each of the county's five magisterial districts by calling land lines and cell phones. If chosen at random for the survey, a resident's caller ID will likely indicate Responsive Management from the area code 540, although it also may show "not available." The survey is expected to take approximately 10 minutes.

"If you're called, please agree to participate," said Tamra R. McKinney, director of Public Relations & Media Services. "This survey will help us better understand the best ways to communicate with residents. The media landscape has changed dramatically since our last survey in 2004, and it continues to evolve with both traditional media and new media platforms. We want to make sure we are reaching residents in ways that suit their busy lives."

The survey will ask residents about their preference of independent media outlets, including newspapers, television and radio news. It also will ask about the county's official information sources, including [henrico.us](http://henrico.us), Henrico County Television and social media accounts. The survey is expected to conclude in early April.

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